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6/4/93

Reed Scowen, Delegate General



A newsletter sent to you by  
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# QUÉBEC



Québec  
Government House  
in New York

## UPDATE

Vol. XV, No. 7, May 17, 1993

### HEALTH "EXCELLENT." IT'S "BUSINESS AS USUAL" FOR BOURASSA

Buoyed by a good bill of health, Premier Bourassa was back at the National Assembly May 4 for the legislative session and a Liberal caucus meeting. "It's business as usual for the time being," he told reporters. "I have to give priority to questions involving the economy and taxes, the budget and language, so I cannot comment on my future today."

Asked if he would lead his party into the next election, Mr. Bourassa said he would make his decision at the end of his government's term, in 1994.

The statement released May 3 by Dr. Stephen Rosenberg of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., read as follows:

"Mr. Bourassa underwent experimental immunotherapy with tumor infiltrating lymphocytes and interleukin-2 at the National Cancer Institute in February and March 1993 for the treatment of melanoma that had spread from the original local site to other sites in the body.

"Mr. Bourassa has had an excellent response to treatment. He is in excellent health and no further treatment is required at this time."

### BOURASSA, CUOMO MEET IN MONTREAL

Premier Robert Bourassa and New York Governor Mario Cuomo met in Montreal on May 10 and signed two mutual cooperation agreements. The first will increase cooperation in areas such as science, technology and manpower training while the second strengthens and expands an agreement on environmental issues originally signed in May 1986.

Both governments have maintained close ties for over a decade in such fields as the economy and transportation. Annual commercial exchanges between the two are valued at about \$5 billion. In fact, Quebec sells more to New York State than to the entire EEC.

Before leaving Montreal, Governor Cuomo addressed a meeting of the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University.

### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Minister of International Affairs John Ciaccia was in Washington from April 26 to 29 to meet with members of the new administration and to explain Quebec's views on a number of issues of strategic importance.

Mr. Ciaccia met with officials from the U.S. Commerce and State Departments, including Rufus Yerxa, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative; Stephen Oxman, Assistant Secretary, European and Canadian Affairs, and Susan Tierney, Assistant Secretary, Domestic and International Energy Policy. He also met Eileen Claussen, President Clinton's special assistant for environmental issues.

The minister also met with several representatives of the Senate and the House, including Representative Amory Houghton (NY), Representative Robert Torricelli (NJ) and Senator Edward Kennedy (MA).

Mr. Ciaccia's meetings had three main themes: Quebec's support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, U.S. market access for Quebec products and Quebec's role on the international scene.

The Minister also addressed members of the Canadian-American Business Council and a joint meeting of the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

### RESEARCH CENTER PUBLISHES DIRECTORIES

The Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec (CRIQ), the Quebec industrial research center, recently launched the sixteenth edition of the Répertoire des produits disponibles au Québec. The directory provides information on 12,500 manufacturers and 7,500 wholesaler/distributors active in Quebec.

"Political Songbook"; journalist Maurice Tourigny contributed the lyrics. And on May 30, Ms. Bouchard's "Lung Ta," dedicated to the Tibetan people, will be performed by the Lydian Quartet.

With more than 50 compositions to her credit, Linda Bouchard is one of the most prominent composers of her generation. She has worked extensively in New York and is currently composer-in-residence with the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa. Maurice Tourigny, a journalist for the past 15 years in New York, has written for Le Devoir as well as many Toronto and Paris arts and music publications. He is also a commentator for the French network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Guitarist Tim Brady rounds out the trio taking part in the festival. He will be performing solo and with others on Saturday, May 29 as part of the "Guitars n' Poets" evening.

For further information, please call the festival at (212) 255-5793.

#### Quebec Films at Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

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The Quebec filmmakers represented are: Léa Pool, Nikolaos Stagiass, Arlene Sander, Denis Langlois, Anne Golden, Charline Bourdeau, Diane Obomsawin, Maureen Bradley, Marilyn Burgess, Agent Orange, Massimo Agostinelli, and Lee Eisler. The films will be shown at the Cinema Village 12th Street. Advance tickets go on sale May 22. For further information on daily screenings, please call the festival at (212) 807-1820.

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Mr. Hamelin has been called a "super virtuoso" and has earned wide-spread recognition. In 1985, he won first prize at the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition.

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This new honor for the Swiss-born conductor, said OSM general manager Robert Spickler, reflects on Montreal as well, confirming the excellence of the OSM's musicians which was evident yet again on the orchestra's recent tour of Florida and Mexico. The OSM has won numerous awards for its recordings, especially in Japan, where the greatest number of recordings signed OSM-Dutoit are sold.

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Ms. Blais will occupy the seat left vacant by the late Duchesse Edmée de la Rochefoucauld. The seat has also been held by Comtesse Anna de Noailles, Gabrielle d'Annunzio, Colette and Jean Cocteau.

Marie-Claire Blais's election to the Belgian Académie as the first non-European to occupy the seat traditionally reserved for a "foreign member" is one of the highest honors an international institution has bestowed on a Quebec writer.

The induction ceremony was held at the close of the first European symposium on Quebec studies organized at the Université de Liège, in collaboration with the Centre d'Études québécoises at the Université de Montreal. Roundtables chaired by European and Quebec experts considered such topics as Quebec studies in Europe, the

According to data compiled by the department of agriculture, fisheries and food, Quebec produces 70% of the maple syrup on world markets. The Beauce region produces 40% of Quebec's production with about one-third of the maples tapped in the province.

### **Hydro Partnership with Motorola Largest of Its Kind**

Hydro-Quebec has signed a \$38 million contract with Motorola Canada for the supply of mobile radio-communication equipment that uses a new digital-transmission telecommunications technology. The system will give Hydro work teams in the field clearer and faster communication with operation centers. It will be in service for 1994-1995.

DMR Quebec, a Montreal firm specialized in integrating software and systems, will work with Motorola to develop a PC interface for the SmartZone networks to be installed at Hydro-Quebec's operation centers. Motorola equipment will be installed at about 100 transmission sites and serve about 5000 users across the province.

The project, utility officials said, in addition to updating Hydro-Quebec's communications system, will enable Quebec and Canada to acquire expertise in digital voice transmission, a leading-edge radio communications technology.

### **Caisse de dépôt Posts Net Income of \$2.9 Billion**

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec had net income of \$2.9 billion last year, for a yield of 4.5%, according to the agency's annual report for 1992. The market value of the Caisse's holdings was \$41.3 billion in 1992, compared to \$41.1 billion the previous year.

Jean-Claude Delorme, chairman of the board, qualified the institution's earnings as satisfactory, given the economic recession. The earnings of various portfolios reflected market indicators. He also said that the Caisse's average annual earnings over a ten-year period have been 11.7%.

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec manages public retirement and insurance plan funds.

## **\*\*\* CULTURE NOTES \*\*\***

### **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens at City Center**

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, a 35-member dance troupe from Montreal, will be in New York in mid-May to present five premieres, including the American premieres of works by James Kudelka and Mark Morris. During its week-long stay, the much acclaimed company will present two different programs under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes, who is well known to New Yorkers as a principal

dancer with the Joffrey and Harkness Ballets and as a teacher at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens can be seen at City Center (131 W. 55th Street) from May 18 to 23. Tickets are \$15 to \$40 and may be ordered by calling (212) 581-1212.

### **Steinman Represented at New Jewish Museum**

Montreal artist Barbara Steinman has been chosen to participate in the newly renovated Jewish Museum's inaugural exhibit, "From the Inside Out: Eight Contemporary Artists," which opens June 9. The artists in the title, among the most significant working today, have created works specifically for the exhibition that use the Jewish experience as a point of departure.

Ms. Steinman has created two multimedia installations dedicated to recovering and remembering the past: "Of a Place Solitary, Of a Sound Mute" and "Signs." The first work is a sheet of glass etched with tiny numbers. It is affixed to a wall beside a photograph of an outstretched arm, whose juxtaposition creates the effect of transposing the numbers onto the arm. A nearby video screen shows gold rings being dropped into a metal container until the rings fill the space. "Signs" consists of sixty light boxes flashing the word "silence" at different intervals.

The artist has participated in several prestigious group shows in Europe, South America, Japan and the U.S. and has been written about extensively in the international arts media. She has been exhibiting in New York since 1989.

### **Recent Ferland Sculptures on View in Soho**

"Memory and Future," an exhibit of six large metal sculptures by Montrealer Grégoire Ferland, opened May 1 at the Angel Orensanz Foundation [172 Norfolk St; tel: (212) 255-7749] and will remain on view through May 30. According to the artist, the exhibition "is a proposition concerning a vision of the future and the progress with the history and the state of humanity." The exhibition was specially conceived for the site, which has cathedral ceilings and was erected in 1850.

Born in St. Angès in the Beauce, Mr. Ferland apprenticed with M.J. Laroché at Cap Santé where he learned old casting methods. The sculptor prefers to work in steel, a medium that is solid yet malleable enough to allow him to juxtapose a variety of forms and other metals. Mr. Ferland has been exhibiting in New York since 1989.

### **Quebecers at Bang on a Can Festival**

Three Quebecers will be part of the seventh annual Bang on a Can Festival, New York's foremost international new music festival. Composer Linda Bouchard contributed two commissioned works. On Tuesday, May 25, Bermuda Triangle will perform "Risky," a song she wrote for their

## Karaoke Software Poised to Enter U.S.

Itching to sing along with Michael Jackson or Elton John? Or maybe Cole Porter or George Gershwin? If your PC has a sound board, you can turn it into a sophisticated karaoke machine with Karaoke Soft, an innovative software program developed in Quebec. Pre-released at PC Expo in Montreal in early May, Karaoke Soft was officially released in the U.S. at the spring Comdex show in Atlanta and a Macintosh version is in the works. This is the first time popular music is available on standard 3 1/2" computer disks.

Soft Karaoke was developed by Tune 1000 (The Universal Network of Entertainment), a fledgling subsidiary of the Quebec City accounting-software firm, Fortune 1000. Sold with a microphone and a 10-song diskette for a very affordable US\$40, the software enables the consumer to load the songs, adjust pitch and tempo, modify the instruments that are playing and sing the lyrics as they light up on the computer screen.

Tune 1000 expects to have 3000 songs in its Soft Karaoke LP catalogue by late summer.

## Hugo is Now Bilingual

Logisdisque, a leading Quebec software publisher, has launched a bilingual grammar corrector, Hugo Plus - Generation 7, the latest in the acclaimed Hugo software family. A technological tour de force and a world first, Hugo Plus - Generation 7 went on sale in over 5000 Canadian computer shops, bookstores and other stores on May 3.

Designed and developed by two Quebecers, Hugo Plus - Generation 7 checks spelling and grammar in both French and English, and can criticize stylistic and typographical elements appropriate to each language. Hugo analyzes whole sentences and proposes options if it finds mistakes. It can also switch quickly from one language to the other.

Development of the first bilingual grammar corrector means Logisdisque is now targeting the English Canadian and U.S. markets, company president Louis-Philippe Hébert said.

Hugo, the first grammar correcting software to be developed in French, has 500,000 users around the world. The new bilingual generation could increase this market tenfold.

## Repentigny Firm Sends Denver Boots to Europe

Bailiffs in France now have to immobilize a car for 24 hours before seizing it. One way of doing this is by installing a Denver boot, a metal disc that attaches to the wheel and prevents a vehicle from being moved.

A small Quebec manufacturer, Sabodoin of Repentigny, is poised to take a fair share of this new market. Two shipments of 50 Denver boots left Sabodoin's assembly line in April for a distributor in Toulouse, France.

The French bailiffs' market could represent 5000 to 8000 Denver boots in the medium term, said Sabodoin president Fernand Beaudoin. About 90% of the company's revenue, an estimated half million dollars in 1993, already comes from exports. Sabodoin delivers a hundred devices a month to municipal clients in the U.S., among them, New York City, and in Japan and Australia.

The company has also developed Denver boots for trucks and semi-trailers. They are being used by Quebec automobile insurance corporation inspectors to immobilize vehicles charged with overloading. A virtually fool-proof anti-theft device for semi-trailers is the company's newest product.

## Quebecers Open Ticket Outlet in Czech Republic

Julius Kudelka, who left Czechoslovakia for Quebec 25 years ago, is making waves in the Prague performing arts world with Tikepro, a small computerized ticket outlet. Founded last September, Tikepro expects to distribute 2 million tickets through its 12 sales offices in its first year of operation.

The company has exclusive distribution agreements with the leading concert venues in the Prague region and has set up a computerized system using Concept Électronique Microflex software from Quebec City. Tikepro serves the local population and is targeting the estimated 70% of the 8 million tourists visiting the Czech Republic each year who go to Prague.

Mr. Kudelka, the president and general manager of Métropolis, a popular Montreal concert venue, has worked with his Canadian partners, Claude Rouleau and Serge Grimaux, to build Tikepro and to help Quebec artists break into the Czech market. Rock singer Marjo and dancer Margie Gillis are among those who have performed under their auspices.

## "Controlled Appellation" Maple Syrup for Korea

A new small company in the Beauce region, les Maîtres du produit de l'Érable, is offering what it calls Beauce-Appalache "controlled appellation" maple syrup for export. The first orders have been shipped to South Korea and a market study is under way in the U.S.

Les Maîtres du produit de l'Érable certifies the superior flavor and freshness of the syrup bottled at its Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley plant. Each batch of syrup comes from one of the company's 17 producers and is not mixed with any other syrup. To guarantee quality, the company refuses syrup made at the very beginning and end of the season, general manager Jean-Rock Lacasse said.

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place of Quebec literature in literature programs, the dissemination of Quebec literature in Europe, the lesson of Quebec in the European context, and immigration and national issues.

• **Quebecers in the region this month....**

.....François Faucher will have his first solo show in New York at the Abney Galleries [591 Broadway; tel: (212) 332-2690]. The painter, whose "vibrationnisme" style results in figurative paintings with jagged edges, will be showing recent works from June 1 to June 30. The opening reception will be held on June 4 at 6 p.m. .... Sylvain Leroux and the Maintenance Crew will bring its creative mix of African, Middle Eastern, South and North American influenced music to the first Inwood World Music Festival on Saturday, June 26. The festival is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (516) 239-2036. .... Margie Gillis will dance a new duet choreographed by herself, her brother Christopher and James Kudelka during a performance with the New York City Ballet on June 3. .... "Impertinence," a show created by Théâtre de l'Avant-Pays of Montreal, uses special "extraterrestrial-like" marionettes, sound and visual effects to present a dynamic new theater experience for young and old alike. "Impertinence" will be part of the Philadelphia International Theatre Festival for Children (May 26 - 30). ....

**\*\*\* COMING UP THIS MONTH \*\*\***

**Lineup of Big Names for Jazz Festival**

New York's Village Voice, reviewing the Montreal International Jazz Festival, recently said, "In 10 days, one can hear what one gets in New York in an entire year." This year's jazzfest runs from July 1 to 11. Over 2000 musicians will perform at 350 shows at 15 different venues, André Ménard, head of programming, told the press.

American pianists Herbie Hancock, Ellis Marsalis and Marcus Roberts have confirmed their presence as have South African pianist Abdullah Ibrahim and vocalist Bobby McFerrin. Tenor saxophonist Scott Hamilton, alto saxophonist Steve Coleman and the British group John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers will also be on stage.

The 100-member Jazz Journalist Association, whose membership is largely American, will hold its annual meeting in Montreal on the second weekend of the festival.

**Greek Civilization Comes to Montreal**

After bringing the ancient wonders of Ramses II, China and Rome to Montreal, the Société du Palais de la Civilisation now acquaints Montrealers with Ancient Greece through its newest exhibit, "Greek Civilization: Macedonia, Kingdom of Alexander the Great." Like its predecessors, "Greek Civilization" is an original and imaginative walk-through-history approach to the fascinating quotidian customs of this great culture.

Conceived in collaboration with the Greek Minister of Culture, the exhibition covers the birth and evolution of Macedonia using some 360 artifacts (vases, jewelry, masks, stelae, sculptures and countless works of art) that are artistically integrated into 13 thematic settings. Many have never been seen before in North America.

"Greek Civilization," which opened on May 7, will run through September 19 at the Bonsecours Marketplace in Old Montreal.

**Just for Laughs Gremlin Signs with Hallmark Cards**

The *Juste pour rire/Just for Laughs* green cartoon gremlin will be a familiar figure on greeting cards, wrapping paper and calendars distributed by Hallmark in Canada beginning in January 1994. The mascot and logo of the 12-year-old Montreal festival will move on to wider distribution by the Hallmark network later on, according to festival resident Andy Nulman.

The three-year agreement makes the festival responsible for the cards' creative content.

The *Just for Laughs* festival has also signed a new three-year agreement with CBC-TV for six 30-minute specials per year. It has a weekly syndicated radio show and sells packages of festival highlights on DC, video and audio tape through PolyTel record.

This year's festival runs from July 22 through August 1.

**Cruise Quebec This Summer**

If you are planning to visit "La belle province" this summer, think about including a cruise (or two) in your plans. Two companies offer intriguing choices.

Famille Dufour Hôtels et Croisières [tel: (418) 827-5711] offers a six-day cruise on the St. Lawrence from Montreal to Tadoussac through mid-July. Along the way, the boat docks at the foot of Mont Sainte-Anne, Ile aux Coudres, Tadoussac and Quebec City. Lunch is on board while breakfast, dinner and overnight stays are in hotels. During the Benson & Hedges International Fireworks Competition in Montreal, passengers have the option of watching from the boat.

Inaugurated last summer, cruises along the Gaspésie coast aboard the *Capitaine Duval*, an 82-foot catamaran, make stops in Percé, Ile Bonaventure and Forillon National Park. The 250-passenger boat has large windows in the hull that were designed for observing marine life, which seasoned divers interpret. The boat's shallow draft also allows it to cruise close to the cliffs.

The *Capitaine Duval*, equipped with a snack bar and bar, is in operation from mid-May to mid-October. [Katamarine, tel: (418) 782-5355.]